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PASTOR SAYS PARANA TALKS BACK ON TRACK AGAIN

PY170036 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2310 GMT 16 Mar 79 PY

[By special correspondent Carlos Cabeza Minarro]

[Text] Brasilia, 16 Mar--The Argentine foreign minister, Gen Carlos Washington Pastor, held a meeting--which was regarded as a courtesy call by both parties--this afternoon with his Brazilian counterpart, Ramiro Saraiva Guerreiro. After the meeting, which was held at Itamaraty Palace, the Argentine diplomatic chief stated that the friendly ties existing between the two countries have been confirmed, that no negotiation has been interrupted and that the subject of the dams ought to be placed again within its true framework, since--despite being important--it is just another subject within the framework of their bilateral relations. Pastor added that negotiations will be resumed within a reasonable time and emphasized the cordiality with which he was treated by every Brazilian official with whom he held talks.

This statement completely disproved reports which have been circulating in Brasilia that negotiations on the dams have been stalled, and that Itamaraty demanded starting negotiations from a zero point again, that is, disregarding the agreements achieved in the Rio de Janeiro and Punta del Este talks, where important progress was made. The moderate optimism which was expressed yesterday by the foreign minister, echoed by this reporter, was also fully justified.

Negotiations on Corpus and Itaipu have not been frozen but, instead, they will be resumed once the new Brazilian foreign minister becomes fully informed on aspects of the problem. One thing which has not yet been decided is the level in which the first meetings will be held to reconcile ideas and to further some practically achieved basic agreements.

At a press conference with Brazilian journalists, Foreign Minister Pastor stated this morning, in reply to a sharp question, that all suspicions must be put aside and we must move into a constructive stage. He added that his optimism at achieving a final accord is based on the fact that both parties are speaking frankly, which is the best way to overcome problems. He noted that the priority objective of the Argentine position is to preserve the free navigability of the Parana River so as not to jeopardize the functioning of the two deep-water ports of Rosario and Santa Fe.

Asked if the hydroelectric projects in the middle Parana were a "veiled threat" to pressure Brazil into accepting the Argentine propositions to coordinate the Itaipu and Corpus projects, Pastor emphatically denied that interpretation and affirmed that the middle Parana projects, like the Corpus project, were no threat to anybody but a need to develop Argentina's energy resources, just like Argentine-Brazilian projects to build hydroelectric plants on the Uruguay River, whose feasibility is under study.

Pressed with insistent questions which can only be considered ill-intended, Pastor stressed that the two countries must work together and step up their trade relations without wasting time and money in efforts to open new markets. Pastor reiterated that the problem over the dams, which is being blown out of proportion by some, cannot be seen as an obstacle to bilateral relations which must be intensified for the benefit of the two countries--an idea which some Brazilian Government officials with whom he talked seem to share.

Asked if Argentina would carry forward the Corpus project even without an agreement with Brazil, Pastor said "the idea does not even enter my mind," because he could not admit that an agreement could not be reached.

The Argentine foreign minister's words, although cautious, could not be more optimistic, indicating that he is confident that an agreement with Brazil could be reached, encompassing much more than the dams, which many times aroused controversies which were more political and emotional than technical. Pastor emphasized time and time again that the dams are not everything, but "just a portion of the many interests we have in common," and so the dams cannot be a knot in Argentine-Brazilian relations. All of this is in agreement with information obtained from Brazilian sources which are not as hysterical as the outgoing head of Itamaraty, who created all this uproar. This fully justifies the need and importance of Foreign Minister Pastor's attendance at the ceremonies in which a new Brazilian administration took office.

'Positive Words' From Brazil

PY161452 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0035 GMT 15 Mar 79 PY

[By Carlos Cabeza Minarro]

[Excerpt] Brasilia, 15 Mar (TELAM)--Sources close to the Argentine Embassy here have stated that the embassy received with great satisfaction the remarks made by Gen Costa Cavalcanti, president of the Brazilian-Paraguayan Itaipu Binational Enterprise, to the effect that the new Brazilian Government wants to reopen the dialog with Argentina regarding the Parana River projects.

Costa Cavalcanti said: "An agreement between Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay for the construction of the Itaipu and Corpus hydroelectric projects is possible and advantageous. President Figueiredo wants an agreement; therefore the new government will recommend negotiations with Argentina."

Positive words such as these have not been heard from Brazilian officials for a long time. Pending problems could now be solved, particularly problems related to the hydroelectric projects which, as Argentina Foreign Minister Carlos Washington Pastor said, are "mainly political."

Cavalcanti made these remarks after leaving the Army General Headquarters, a fact which makes the statement more important and promising. The same sources indicated that these remarks are in some way a "rebuke" to the outgoing government.

TALKS WITH UK ON MALVINAS SET FOR 21-23 MARCH

PY162230 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1820 GMT 16 Mar 79 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 16 Mar (TELAM)--San Martin Palace reported today that a new British-Argentine meeting to continue studying the dispute over the Malvinas Islands will be held in New York 21-23 March. This new meeting will be undertaken within the framework of the negotiations agreed in April 1977, which refer to future political relations, including sovereignty, over the Malvinas, Georgia and South Sandwich islands, and economic cooperation with regard to these regions in particular and the southwestern Atlantic in general.

This new round of negotiations was agreed on at the last meeting, on 20 December 1978 in Geneva. The under secretary of foreign affairs at the time, Capt Gualter Allara, represented our country at that meeting.

This time the Argentine delegations will be headed by Minister Angel Oliveri Lopez, director general of the Antarctica and Malvinas Department. Its members will be Counsellor Nicolas Garcia Pinto, and Embassy Secretary Fernando Teson. The British delegations will be headed by George Hall, assistant under secretary of the British Foreign Ministry.

NO PLANS TO RENEW PROBE OF PRATS MURDER

PY162203 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2025 GMT 16 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 16 Mar (LATIN)--Argentina will in no way resume its investigations on the murder of former Chilean Army Commander Carlos Prats, Foreign Minister Carlos Pastor said. He added that Argentina had adopted a prudent, cautious attitude, avoiding this issue in view of its border conflict with Chile.

Prats died in Buenos Aires, where he was in exile, in a terrorist attack similiar to that which caused the death of former Chilean Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier in Washington.

BALBIN CRITICIZES PACE OF REORGANIZATION

PY162304 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1330 GMT 16 Mar 79 PY

[Excerpt] Cordoba, 16 Mar (NA)--Ricardo Balbin, president of the Radical Civic Union National Committee (UCR), said here that "the process of national reorganization is being delayed and needs to make changes," and that "if the current economic policies are continued there will be serious problems in our country in the future." Balbin made these remarks to the local press yesterday during a visit here to attend the 75th anniversary of the morning newspaper LA VOZ DEL INTERIOR.

Asked about the political activity being carried out by Adm Emilio Eduardo Massera (ret), Balbin said "Admiral Massera is a private citizen retired from the navy; he is a young man with feelings and he is expressing them. He has the legitimate right to carry out political activity."

Balbin pointed out: "I said once and I say it again now: If he is carrying out political activity, I wish him success, because everyone's success is the success of the country," but he warned that "it is difficult to create a political party and even more difficult to maintain it."

Asked to weigh the positive and negative aspects of the process of national reorganization, the UCR president said that "from the point of view of the problem which worsened the crisis in the nation, that is, subversion, it is obvious that there is a policy in this regard and the result has been positive." He added: "But in the economic aspect, regarding its policies, we do not support it. We have said this before. If this policy is continued, there will be serious problems in the future."

He also said: "Three years have passed and we still do not have a law on professional associations, we do not have an organization of political parties, we do not have an organization of state enterprises. We also do not have a law on public health, and the universities are full of dissent."

PADILLA RETURNS, DISCUSSES TALKS WITH LEADERS

PY170210 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Bolivian President David Padilla Arancibia today returned from his trip to Venezuela and Brazil and announced that by the end of May he will meet with his Paraguayan counterpart, Gen Alfredo Stroessner, at some point on the border with that nation. According to information released by the Protocol Office, General Paidlla arrived in La Paz at 1645 from Santa Cruz, where he made a stopover on his trip from Brasilia to La Paz.

At El Alto airport, Padilla was met by the entire Cabinet, military officers and chiefs of diplomatic missions. Padilla indicated that his trips and contacts with other chiefs of state were very positive and highly profitable for the solution of the country's primary problems.

Padilla Arancibia stated to the press: [begin recording] In both countries I was very well received, and the two presidential inaugurations impressed me very much. My impression of the two countries I visited is that there is great maturity, social awareness and respect for the constitution. There are differences between the two countries, but both have one basic thing in common--respect for the people's will. [end recording]

He announced that next Monday he will meet with journalists accredited to Government House to report on his impressions and the results of the talks held with other chiefs of state who attended the presidential inaugurations in Caracas and Brasilia.

With regard to foreign reactions to Bolivia's century-old problem, General Padilla said: [begin recording] I was pleasantly impressed because the support is still there just as it was during President Andres Perez' time. Brazil is also on our side. I have been told with all sincerity and honesty that the Brazilian people are with us in our quest for a sea outlet. [end recording]

As soon as General Padilla set foot on Bolivian soil, he took back the reins of the nation from Foreign Minister Raul Botelho Gonsalves, who had acted as president in his absence.

BISHOPS PROTEST EXPULSION OF SPANISH PRIEST

PY162237 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1734 GMT 16 Mar 79 PY

[Excerpt] La Paz, 16 Mar (LATIN)--The Bolivian Church has made its first complaint to the military government junta, protesting the order of expulsion of a Spanish priest connected with journalism. Church sources told LATIN today that the formal complaint was submitted yesterday to the interim president, Foreign Minister Raul Botelho Gozalvez.

The reports added that the military government notified the Spanish Embassy on Wednesday of the expulsion order for Jesuit Priest Eduardo Perez Iribarne, director of Radio Fides of that religious order, who at the same time served as AFP correspondent in Bolivia. The sources said the official explanation of the drastic measure was that the priest had meddled in the internal affairs of the country.

According to the sources, various members of the Bolivian Bishops Conference demanded from the government the immediate presentation of reliable evidence against Perez Iribarne, proof which would then be studied by that ecclesiastal organization. The bishops also sent a letter to the interim president, pointing out that there is an agreement between the church and the state under which no priest can be expelled without first consulting with the Bishops Conference.

Perez Iribarne 16 Mar Article

FY161718 Paris AFP in Spanish 1617 GMT 16 Mar 79 FY

[By Eduardo Perez Iribarne]

[Excerpts La Paz, 16 Mar (AFP)--Former President Hugo Banzer has announced following his return to Bolivia that he will form a new political party of a nationalistic trend. Local observers say this will further complicate the nation's political scene. Banzer arrived in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, 1,000 km east of La Paz, from Buenos Aires, where he held the post of Bolivian ambassador until 5 months ago when he was relieved of his functions by President David Padilla.

Banzer called the situation in the nation a Roman circus in which wild beasts are eating the Christians. Former President Banzer's expression astonished the local press because political rights have full validity and the country is moving toward general elections promised by the military government for next 1 July. The former president did not explain who the wild beasts are, but he said that nationalism will not allow itself to be eaten.

Banzer did not clearly state whether he will be a candidate in the coming general elections, but leaders of the political forces which support him told the press that he will. The former president during the period 1971-78 also stressed in a speech in Santa Cruz shortly after his arrival that we have not come to take away the candidacy from anyone, because we can organize our own. He also emphasized that we have not returned to serve as a battering ram for makers of coups.

The leaders of the nationalist forces which support former President Banzer announced initially that their chief would not be a candidate in the coming elections and that they would seek to form an alliance with other political forces. Political analysts, however, interpreted the political reception prepared for Banzer as a sign that the former president wishes to run as a candidate at the head of a coalition of social forces.

PRIN OFFICIALS EXPELLED FOR CONTACTS WITH MNR

FY161616 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 16 Mar 79 FY

[Text] Some political leaders of the Revolutionary Party of the Nationalist Left [PRIN] have been expelled from the party for not following its political line. This news has been learned by Radio Panamericana, and it was reported that the decision was made at the last convention held over the weekend. The PRIN spokesman said those expelled are political leaders Lidia Gueiler and (Jorge Seller), who (?splintered) the party with the intention of siding with the Natinal Revolutionary Movement [MNR] led by Victor Paz Estenssoro.

It was explained that the same expulsion decision has been made regarding some grass-roots members of the party who do not agree with the political line accepted by PRIN.

In conclusion it was said that talks are now being held with various political sectors which have programs similar to that of PRIN, and it was explained that their basic programs are the main factors in these attempts to reach an agreement.

ITAMARATY DENIES TALKS HELD WITH CUBA ON TIES

PY170252 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 17 Mar 79 PY

[Text] It has been reported in diplomatic circles that no talks are being held between the Cuban and Brazilian governments on resuming diplomatic relations between Brasilia and Havana. This information, which was released by Itamaraty spokesman Bernardo Pericas Neto, denies a statement made in New York by Raul Roa, Cuban ambassador to the United Nations.

PARAGUAYAN, BOLIVIAN, BRAZILIAN PRESIDENTS MEET

PY161611 Asuncion LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 16 Mar 79 p 3 PY

[Excerpts] After attending the principal ceremonies of the transfer of the presidency from Gen Ernesto Geisel to Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo, which took place yesterday, the chief of state, Gen Alfredo Stroessner, left Brasilia in the afternoon for Florianopolis, Santa Catarina State. It is believed he will return to Asuncion tomorrow or Sunday.

The so-called "presidential luncheon" was served after noon. Present were the presidents of Paraguay and Bolivia, Generals Stroessner and David Padilla, as special guests, and the new Brazilian president, Figueiredo, and his predecesor, General Geisel. Some Brazilian and foreign ministers were also in attendance.

Lively tripartite talks (Figueiredo, Stroessner and Padilla) began on this opportune occasion. The same occurred later between the Paraguayan and Brazilian chiefs of state. Stroessner also had a lively and friendly talk with the Bolivian president. Thus the close relationship at the highest level which characterized Paraguay and Bolivia during the presidency of then President Hugo Banzer Suarez continued.

Among the priority subjects presumably discussed is that of the imminent Paraguayan-Bolivian highway link through the Trans-Chaco Highway, which will conclude an important stretch of the projected Pan-American Highway in the territories of the two countries.

The "animated dialog" between two "old friends" such as Stroessner and Figueiredo was termed of "special importance for binational and international relations." During their broad-ranging talk, the Brazilian and Paraguayan chiefs of state reviewed the majority of questions linked with the active exchange of cooperation in a variety of fields.

PRC DELEGATION VISITS NUCLEBRAS TECHNOLOGY CENTER

PY162257 Rio De Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 Mar 79 p 41 PY

[Text] Belo Horizonte--The delegation of PRC nuclear energy experts, which has been in the country since 1 March, yesterday visited the installations of NUCLEBRAS' Center for the Development of Nuclear Technology (DCTN) here.

The mission, made up of eight nuclear engineers headed by the deputy director of the Nuclear Energy Secretariat of the Ministry of Water Conservancy and Power, Zhang Shuoen, has already visited the nuclear plant of Angra Dos Reis; the NUCLEP, which is a factory of heavy nuclear equipment of NUCLEBRAS located in Itaguai; and the uranium mine and processing plant of Pocos de Caldas.

According to the NUCLEBRAS public relations adviser, Col Renato Raposo dos Santos, who is accompanying the mission on its tour, their objective is to "find out what we are doing in the field of nuclear energy." He explained that the visit was one of "courtesy and curiosity, and for the time being nothing has been said about signing an accord on technical exchanges between the two countries."

STEELWORKERS' STRIKE DECLARED ILLEGAL

PY161553 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Mar 79 p 1 PY

[Text] With 12 votes for and 4 abstentions, the Regional Labor Court [TRT] this morning decided to declare the ABC steelworkers' strike illegal following the advice of labor court prosecutor Paulo Chagas Felisberto, who charged the unions with violating legal provisions by decreeing a stoppage. The wage increase granted by the TRT is equal to the official government rate of 44 percent, although 29 unions have already achieved an increase of 63 percent. The TRT also rejected the appointment of union delegates within the companies.

At meetings held with thousands of workers a few hours earlier, several ABC workers' assemblies decided to continue the strike notwithstanding any official decision by the TRT. Tension eased yesterday, although some new problems emerged in some factories, and in addition steel workers from Sao Jose dos Campos and Santa Barbara d'Oeste also joined the strike. In Sao Jose dos Campos, in addition to General Motors, where 9,000 workers suspended activities, enterprises such as EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] and ENGESA [Specialized Engineering Corporation] were also affected by the strike. Among the businessmen the general feeling was to remain united to avoid any agreement now becoming a political victory for the steel union leaders. President Geisel yesterday in Brasilia followed the development of the strikes closely.

Bishop's Support for Workers

PY171451 Paris AFP in Spanish 0131 GMT 17 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Sao Paulo, 16 Mar (AFP)--Msgr Claudio Hummes, bishop of Sao Paulo, announced here today that the Church has decided to support the just and peaceful strike of the metalworkers in the suburbs of this city. Monseigneur Hummes asked the employers for a minimum of justice so that the workers who have stopped working would not be dismissed. He also authorized the churches to collect funds for the strikers.

The bishop added that the solidarity of the Church with the strike movement is based on the Gospels.

BRIEFS

PETROLEUM RESERVES--Rio de Janeiro--The Brazilian Petroleum Corporation [PETROBRAS] has confirmed that the reduction of gross petroleum imports during January and February has caused a reduction of approximately 6 million barrels in the national reserves, which total 90 million barrels. PETROBRAS explained that the reduction will be compensated for by the arrival at the end of this month and during April of additional supplies agreed upon with Iraq and other Middle East countries at the beginning of the year. [Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 10 Mar 79 PY]

IRON EXPORTS TO EEC--Brazil has reached an agreement with the EEC to export 280,000 tons of cast iron this year. According to the agreement, Brazil will be able to export to Europe at prices a little lower than other suppliers from this continent. [Porto Alegre Radio Gaucha in Portuguese 1545 GMT 10 Mar 79 PY]

SANTIAGO ZONE CHIEF DISCUSSES CURRENT BOMBINGS

PY162218 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0013 GMT 16 Mar 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 15 Mar (LATIN)--Gen Enrique Morel, chief of the Santiago emergency zone, confirmed here today that there is an upsurge in terrorist activity, but he noted that the government has the situation under control. The high-ranking army officer noted that this is reflected in the last 10 bomb attacks perpetrated throughout the city on the houses of various officials.

General Morel explained that this new outbreak in terrorist activity is aimed at obtaining more publicity for the movement but that numerous security measures have been adopted to find the perpetrators of these crimes. He described the plan as "armed propaganda" which motivates the terrorists once the mass media reports on their activities.

General Morel said the terrorists have now [words indistinct] explosives which have been [words indistinct] from the national mining industry.

He explained that according to security services' investigations, three persons participate in each attack but that almost always the person who places the explosive has nothing to do with the terrorist movement since that person is hired for the purpose.

AMBASSADOR TO U.S. AT MEETING; COMMENTS ON RELATIONS

PY161602 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Mar 79 PY

[Text] The Chilean ambassador to the United States, Jose Miguel Barros, has stated that Chilean-U.S. relations are normal, although they do experience ups and downs. The diplomat made this statement after briefing his colleagues who have been meeting at the Foreign Ministry since Monday. He said the objective of the conference is to make a joint analysis with the ministry of the present situation in Latin America.

[Begin Barros recording] It is obvious that any briefing on Chilean-U.S. relations must necessarily encompass issues pertaining to human rights, the Letelier case and all those issues which have been (?extensively covered by the press). All of these points have been discussed to achieve a constructive study of U.S.-Chilean relations, which includes not only general issues of positive guidelines, but also long-term objectives which consider historical aspects, the future of U.S.-Chilean relations and [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Ambassador Barros expressed hope that present difficulties may be overcome with beneficial results for the two countries. The diplomat was the next-to-last to speak yesterday afternoon at the Foreign Ministry. He was preceded by Pedro Daza, Chilean ambassador to the OAS. Concerning U.S.-Chilean relations, Barros said:

[Begin recording] U.S.-Chilean relations are normal, with the characteristics which all of you know, and despite those pending problems which all of us hope will be solved in a manner favorable for both countries. Our diplomatic relations are neither any worse nor any better than they have been throughout the history of U.S.-Chilean relations. There are ups and downs, but in the long run a formula is always found to implement the best [words indistinct]. [end recording] The ambassador believes the Chilean image abroad has improved substantially and tends to the better. This refutes reports from both inside and outside Chile regarding our country.

Barros finds particularly interesting our country's improvement in the economic sector. [begin recording] Well, economic relations in general are very good, perhaps the best, since U.S. banks and financial circles have great faith in the Chilean economic program and its results. This is reflected in the many credits [words indistinct] and the press is well informed about this. [end recording]

The ambassador also discussed the Letelier case, reasserting that it is being dealt with at the judicial level. He said: The extradition request is a court matter which was submitted by the U.S. Government. It should be dealt with at this level and it is the Chilean courts which should issue a decision. [begin recording] It is the Chilean courts which should decide on this matter in accordance with Chilean laws and by evaluating the evidence according to Chilean terms. I am sure Chilean courts will provide justice in accordance with our laws. It is, of course, very hard to isolate issues. A judicial (?decision) may have political repercussions. There is an (?interposition) of decisions. [end recording]

But he added: Both the United States and Chile have agreed to deal with the issue within a special canon. He noted that the way the issue is being dealt with is the best guarantee that justice will be done.

RELATIVES OF LONQUEN VICTIMS FILE CHARGES

PY171456 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1604 GMT 16 Mar 79 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 16 Mar (LATIN)--Judicial sources reported here today that family members of alleged missing persons have started judicial proceedings against police officials. This is in relation to the finding of 15 bodies in a lime kiln near Santiago. Lawyer Gustavo Villalobos, who started the proceeding, told the press that this suit is related to the murder of 11 persons who were members of the Maureira family (father and four sons), the Astudillo family (father and two sons) and the Hernandez family (three brothers). According to Villalobos, "all these persons were detained by Carabineros of Isla de Maipo on 7 October 1973. Their remains were later found in the Lonquen lime kiln."

OIL PRODUCTION REPORTED UP BY 30 PERCENT

PA192018 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1545 GMT 18 Mar 79 PA

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 17 Mar (EFE)--Chile has increased its oil production by 30 percent at a time when a price increase on the international market seems indicated. The increase is due to the exploitation of the Ostion oil deposit in the Strait of Magellan, which has yielded 73,000 cubic meters since 8 January, according to a report released here today. So far, Chile's production has only covered 25 percent of its domestic needs.

The outlook seems favorable because Spiteful, the other oil deposit in the strait, is going to be drilled in April. It will have 19 wells and two production platforms, one of which is being installed in an area 10 km northwest of Ostion. The other will be installed in a few days. Another drilling platform, to be finished by the end of 1979, is being built at the navy shipyard in Talcahuano. It will be named Magallanes when it is installed in 1980.

FOREIGN PLOT AGAINST DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS DENOUNCED

PA181927 Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 14 Mar 79 pp 1-A, 5-A PA

[Press conference held 13 March by Minister Delegate German Zea Hernandez at San Carlos Palace]

[Excerpt] Question: Mr Minister Delegate, how has the Colombian Government received the criticism made abroad on supposed human rights violations?

Answer: "We know that there is an international campaign prepared exclusively to try to counteract the efforts that the Colombian Government has been making to preserve the democratic institutions and strengthen peace in this country.

"This international campaign does not frighten us, it is artificial and a fake. The good people know that our country has in no way violated human rights and that Colombia has been one of the countries that has shown great zeal and determination, throughout its republican existence, in defending the human rights declared in our constitution. The proof that human rights have not been violated is that those who have made the charges have not been able to prove them.

"Naturally, we are living in a world that exploits this sort of rumor because news media always try to publish sensationalist news, and those interested in creating disorder, in disturbing institutions, take advantage of the press preference for this type of report, which does not correspond to the truth."

Question: Does the minister believe that the number of refugees proves that irregularities are being committed in the investigations?"

Answer: "No. The right of asylum can lend itself to all sorts of things and, of course, there are persons who have no right to seek asylum. They ask for it to prevent the government from taking police action against them. Colombia has defended the right of asylum, and everyone knows that in such cases the country that grants asylum is the one that establishes the conditions for granting it, either accepting or rejecting the reasons given by the person seeking asylum who claims that he is being persecuted.

"We cannot oppose this. If a persons requests asylum in an embassy, we accept that the government represented by that diplomatic mission decides whether it should be granted. If it does, Colombia will respect the decision."

Question: Minister Zea, what is your opinion regarding the presidential declaration signed in Caracas?

Answer: "As a matter of fact, I have read the magnificent communique issued by the presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic and the prime minister of Spain in connection with the meeting called by President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala. It is a very important document that especially analyzes the situation of developing countries regarding the current international economic situation in view of the drop in prices of some exports and the oil price increase.

"The situation has been clearly analyzed by the heads of state in Caracas. I think it will have wide repercussions in the future. I am sure that developing countries and oil producing countries will not be deaf to the views expressed by the presidents in Caracas.

"Colombia has never pretended to be a leader in this hemisphere. Its heads of state have said so. Colombia does not pretend to practice leadership. What it wants is to contribute in domestic and international areas to improve economic relations among nations and see that international measures are taken to accelerate the development of nations still relatively behind economically.

"Colombia has already contributed in such affairs on several occasions, and now it has had a great demonstration with President Turbay's invitation and the results of the meeting called by him."

Question: Do you think we are facing a new international economic order?

Answer: "It is hard to say if we are far or near. What we can do is present our aspirations and views, pointing out to the industrialized countries the real situation of developing nations in matters of international exchange, the sale of products and prices.

"We think that in the hope to have a just world, the industrialized countries, as I said before, cannot be indifferent to the demands of developing countries as expressed in the declaration issued in Caracas."

GOVERNMENT ORDERS FUEL PRICE HIKES, OTHER MEASURES

PA170415 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Bogota--In an important decision, the Colombian Government today decided to raise current fuel prices by 25 percent. The decision, intended to rationalize fuel consumption in the country in view of the world crisis, was announced by San Carlos Palace this afternoon.

According to the new measures, as of tomorrow fuel prices in Bogota, Medellin, Cali, Yumbo, Cartago, Cartagena, Barrancabermeja, Guamo, (Orito), Plato, Tibu, Bucaramanga, La Dorada and Manizales will be as follows: Regular gasoline, 20 pesos a gallon; premium gasoline, 25 pesos; kerosene, 18.50 pesos; and ACPM, 18.50 a gallon. In Barranquilla, Magangue, Covenas and Tamalameque, the new fuel prices will be as follows: Regular gasoline, 20.50 pesos; premium gasoline, 25.50; kerosene and ACPM, 19 pesos. In Gamarra, regular gasoline will cost 22.20 pesos a gallon; premium gasoline, 27 pesos; and kerosene and ACPM, 20.70. In Neiva and Cucuta, regular gasoline will cost 21 pesos a gallon; premium gasoline, 26.50; and kerosene and ACPM, 19.50. In Pereira, regular gasoline will cost 25 pesos a gallon; premium gasoline, 28 pesos; kerosene, 18.60 pesos; and ACPM, 28.50.

The fuel price hike will go into effect at midnight tonight. The government also decided to close gasoline stations throughout the country on Sundays beginning 25 March. The latter measure will cover cities and municipalities of more than 20,000 inhabitants.

TELEPHONE COMPLEX MILITARIZED TO PREVENT SABOTAGE

PA161949 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1644 GMT 15 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 15 Mar (EFE)--The country's largest telephone complex was militarized today, Thursday, due to a partial suspension of services that was decreed 2 weeks ago by the employees.

Military patrols wearing antigas equipment stationed themselves near the building where the Bogota telephone company installations operate to prevent any acts of sabotage or violence. Early this morning, mobile units occupied the installations to prevent the blocking [as received] of telephone lines. These extend over an area of 10,000 square km in this capital of over 5 million inhabitants. Phone plant employees are trying to implement a "turtle plan" or "sabotage operation," which consists of blocking all of the city's lines and preventing all urban communication. A security statute implemented in Colombia several months ago bans the staging of strikes, labor movements or demonstrations throughout the country.

EPL CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR SEVERAL ACTIONS

PA170318 Paris AFP in Spanish 2119 GMT 16 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Pereira, Colombia, 16 Mar (AFP)--In a clandestine communique distributed here, the pro-Beijing guerrilla movement the Popular Liberation Army [EPL] today claimed responsibility for a series of actions carried out in several Colombian cities including the occupation of two radio stations. According to the communique, the EPL took over two radio stations in Pereira and Armenia. It also burned a store in Cartago, western Colombia, causing approximately $700,000 in losses. It also claimed responsibility for the occupation of a newspaper office in Pereira.

TOWN OF TRUJILLO PLACED UNDER MARTIAL LAW

PA181931 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Trujillo, a town located in the north-central region of Valle Department, today was placed under martial law following yesterday's bloody incidents in which two persons were killed and four others seriously wounded.

The town's civilian mayor, Jaime Munoz, was replaced by Army Capt Adolfo Charris Solano, who has antimutiny and antiguerrilla units from the army and police force patrolling the town. A late report from the police station indicates that everything is normal.

'DEATH SQUAD' REPORTEDLY EMERGES IN RURAL AREA

PA171738 Paris AFP in Spanish 1717 GMT 16 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 16 Mar (AFP)--It was reported here today that a "death squad" is operating among three rural population groups in the Uraba region on the border with Panama.

According to Rodrigo Uribe Echavarria, governor of the northeastern Department of Antioquia, the group is operating in the towns of Chigorodo, Necocli and the port of Turbo on the Atlantic Ocean.

Uribe Echavarria reported the existence of the squad to President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala and to the Attorney General's Office and requested that measures to be taken to combat it. The governor explained that many of the inhabitants of these towns know the members of the "death squad," but are afraid to identify them because they realize that "their lives are at stake."

According to the report, almost daily, police and inhabitants of the three towns discover corpses of persons who "had accounts pending with the courts." It was learned that some 10 persons have been riddled with bullets by members of the "death squad," and their bodies have been discarded in deserted spots. Among the dead are persons involved in smuggling, drug trafficking and counterfeiting.

It was learned that the "death squad" is similar to one operating in Brazil and another that has announced its emergence in Bogota, but has apparently not begun to operate yet. The newspaper EL TIEMPO, which has an article today on the existence of the "executioners," estimated that at least 100 persons "have been executed in the last few months."

NEW INCIDENTS REPORTED ON COLOMBIAN-VENEZUELAN BORDER

PA170113 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0053 GMT 17 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 16 Mar (EFE)--A Colombian citizen died in the last few hours in a new incident reported on the Colombian-Venezuelan border.

The chief of the Administrative Department of Security (DAS) Rafael Poveda Alonso, told a radio reporter that talks are underway between police on the border to clarify the facts. "I cannot make any statement on the incident at this time," the DAS director said.

Meanwhile, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Foreign Ministries of the two countries are studying means that will help settle the problem of Colombian citizens in Venezuela who lack documents. Regarding the killing of Colombians on the Venezuelan border, the Chamber of Representatives will discuss the issue on Tuesday to make a pronouncement on the problem. Magdalena residents have sent messages to the legislators demanding an explanation of the killings. Benezuelan police authorities have apparently already made some arrests in the process of the investigations underway concerning the killing of Colombian peasants in Venezuelan territory.

M-19 GUERRILLA FORTRESS DISCOVERED IN CALI

PA191201 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2105 GMT 18 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Cali, Colombia, 18 Mar (EFE)--An armor-plated fortress of the 19 April guerrilla organization (M-19) has been found in a suburb in western Cali, capital of Valle del Cauca Department, it was reported here today. "The hideout," as was learned, had been built as a garrison and training school for urban guerrillas specializing in attacks with modern weapons brought from abroad.

The fortress, with iron-buttressed walls, was located in the Palermo neighborhood in western Cali where an urban cell of the M-19 guerrilla movement was recently dismantled. The movement stole weapons from a military area in Bogota.

The military intelligence service, which conducted the operation revealed that drugs, subversive propaganda, explosives, license plates and war material were found in "the hideout."

A shooting range was located on the terrace and areas for practicing sports, particularly self-defense techniques, were located on other floors. Plans for urban guerrilla actions were also found.

POVEDA DEFENDS REGIME AGAINST RECENT CHARGES

PA161441 Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 16 Mar 79 PA

[Text] The military government has rejected as groundless the charges of embezzlement and shady deals made public in the past few days. The charges referred to cases such as those involving fertilizers, the hospitals' scrap iron, the bribes given to the former commericial director of the Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation and the foreign debt. The regime was defended by Supreme Council President Adm Alfredo Poveda, who delivered a speech at an evening ceremony held in connection with the promotion of two new generals.

Admiral Poveda reiterated that along with the people, the military regime is interested in the reestablishment of democracy and in the opening of an era of justice, peace, order and progress. But he also warned that while fulfilling those political objectives, those opponents--whom he described as traffickers in the dignity of others, slanderers and creators of public scandal--will be sanctioned. Poveda flatly rejected the charges that fraudulent public activities have been committed and promised that should any of these charges against the government be proven, he will demand a severe punishment. The chief of government added that he is not interested in getting anybody's praise for the work done because the armed forces are aware that their exclusive duty is that of serving the Ecuadorean people.

GOVERNMENT SEIZES MAGAZINE CRITICAL OF REGIME

PA170327 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0110 GMT 17 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Quito, 16 Mar (EFE)--The Ecuadorean Government today seized the monthly magazine NUEVA. An official government communique states that issue No 56 of the magazine, corresponding to the month of March, "contains affirmations which go against the just exercise of the freedom of expression and harm the dignity of the state and those who hold high government positions." However, the communique did not say what specifically had motivated the government's decision. The government added that "the cancellation of the magazine's registry will be maintained until the affirmations in question are proved in the corresponding courts of justice." At the same time, National Secretary of Public Information Carlos Ayala Roca sent NUEVA's legal representative Magdalena Adoum a letter along similar lines. The magazine has maintained a consistently critical position on the Ecuadorean military government's administration.

TEXACO TO PAY BACK 'EXCESS' OIL EXPORTS

PA162354 Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 2300 GMT 16 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Starting in April of this year, Texaco will begin to return to the Ecuadorean State Petroleum Corporation [CEPE] the amount of oil which the company overproduced due to excess exports during the year 1977. The company must do so in kind and in monthly quotas, according to a decision made by the Natural Resources and Energy Ministry.

An Ecuadorean Comptroller's Office report made public at the beginning of February stated that Texaco produced approximately 5 million barrels of excess oil between January and November of 1977. The Natural Resources Ministry decision is tacit recognition of the comptroller's Office report that the company made excess exports during the period in question, although the exact amount of the excess exports is still to be determined after the National Oil Directorate audits the exports made by CEPE and Texaco in 1977.

ARMY TROOPS OCCUPY SOUTHERN COPPER AREAS

PA170148 Paris AFP in Spanish 0123 GMT 17 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 16 Mar (AFP)--Army troops today occupied the copper areas of Toquepala, Ilo and Cuajone. They arrested several "agitators," including extreme left Constituent Assembly member Victor Cuadros, the Joint Command of the armed forces announced today.

Toquepala and Cuajone, of the U.S. Southern Peru Copper Corporation, and the state refinery at Ilo are located in the southern part of the country, where the government suspended constitutional guarantees last night and imposed a state of emergency following a strike staged by miners. According to authcrized spokesmen, the conflict is causing $1.5 million in losses daily, since 771 tons of copper concentrates are not being produced each day. According to officials, this mineral is needed for economic recovery.

The joint command reported that in view of the state of emergency, the sites "were occupied by troops today in order to protect the lives of the people and the security of the facilities, as well as to provide the necessary guarantees to workers who want to go to work".

It added that"several agitators have been arrested and placed at the disposal of the state security police" and that "constituent assembly member Victor Cuadros is one of the arrested agitators. He will be handed over to the Constituent Assembly along with the pertinent report. The assembly president was told this morning."

The strike was called to support a wage increase of 350 soles a day ($1.20) [as received] after an offer by the U.S. company of 200 soles a day ($1) was turned down.

Cuadros, a popular Democratic Unity member, is secretary general of the Toquepala trade union, but labor officials and Southern Peru Copper Corporation do not recognize him as such, because he was fired more than a year ago through a legal resolution. [as received]

MINISTER SAYS STRIKERS OBEYING FOREIGN INTERESTS

PA182134 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1930 GMT 18 Mar 79 PA

[Excerpts] Lima, 18 Mar (EFE)--Peruvian Economy Minister Javier Silva said today that the copper workers strike declared here "clearly obeys foreign interests" which are attempting to undermine the country's political and economic stability. He warned that the government will act "with extreme firmness" against the strike, which undermines the nation's financial recovery and hurts the most depressed sectors of the Peruvian population.

Minister Silva made the statements upon his arrival in Lima after visiting Venezuela and Panama as a member of a delegation headed by Prime Minister Gen Pedro Richter. Silva urged the workers not "to let themselves be influenced by the agitators, who only see their own benefits in the strike" and emphasized the foreign manipulation of the strike.

Meanwhile, the pro-Moscow Communist Party today "strongly protested" against the anti-strike measures adopted by the government in the country's southern region.

GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE OIL PRODUCTION, RAISE PRICES

PA180335 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1928 GMT 17 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 17 Mar (EFE)--Venezuela will increase the price of its oil $1.20 per barrel over the price increase decided by OPEC starting on 1 April. At a news conference held here today, new Energy and Mines Minister Humberto Calderon Berti added that the measure is justified for "marketing reasons."

Calderon Berti recalled that at the last OPEC meeting in Abu Dhabi it was agreed that the price increase for the second quarter of this year would be 52 cents per barrel. Despite that, Venezuela will increase the price by the amount specified. Calderon Berti said that other countries, including Kuwait and Qatar, decided to make similar increases. He added that Venezuela would try to increase its daily oil production from the present 2.43 million barrels to 2.8 million barrels, which would give Venezuela a "security cushion" of more than 0.5 million barrels a day.

Further Report

PA171715 Paris AFP in Spanish 0032 GMT 17 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Caracas, 16 Mar (AFP)--The objective of Humberto Calderon Berti, the new energy and mines minister, is to increase Venezuela's oil production capacity to at least 3 million barrels a day, it was learned here today. However, such an increase in capacity is not aimed at increasing production, but at exploiting deposits at a slower pace for conservation purposes and to save gas, the sources noted.

Luis Herrera Campins, the new Venezuelan president, charged during his inauguration on Monday that Venezuelan wells are operating at 95 percent capacity, which is harmful from a technical standpoint.

According to guidelines from the Energy and Mines Ministry, nationalized operating companies are supposed to maintain their production capacity at 2.8 million barrels a day, but not exceed an average daily production of 2.2 million barrels. The new authorities charge that capacity is now at 2,430,200 barrels a day, and production has been very close to 2.4 million barrels during the last few weeks in order to meet the increased demand arising from the crisis in Iran.

The sources said that the ministry intends to increase exploration activities and improve systems allowing certain abandoned wells to be reactivated in order to increase production capacity and to have greater flexibility in the exploitation of deposits.

POLICE OCCUPY DISTRICT IN CARACAS AFTER DISTURBANCES

PA160106 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 15 Mar 79 PA

[Text] The police have occupied several sectors of the 23 de Enero District to prevent the continuation of demonstrations instigated by professional agitators. So far it is not known why demonstrators have caused disturbances in the densely populated district. It was reported that one student is in serious condition and that two policemen were wounded by rocks. A Kodak company truck was sacked and destroyed in the disturbances. There were no reports of arrests.

PEMEX CHIEF PREDICTS OIL PRODUCTION, REVENUE

PA190320 Paris AFP in Spanish 1914 GMT 18 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Cadereyta, Mexico, 18 Mar (AFP)--Jorge Diaz Serrano, director general of Mexican Petroleum [PEMEX], said today that in 1979 Mexico will receive 10 times the income it received from oil and its byproducts in 1976. Its net sales income will increase from $300 million in 1976 to $3.86 billion in 1979, said Diaz Serrano during a speech delivered at the principal ceremony to commemorate the nationalization of the oil industry in 1938 by then President Lazaro Cardenas.

The PEMEX director added that in 1979 Mexico's average daily oil production will be 1.7 million barrels, an increase of 300,000 barrels a day over 1978. Diaz Serrano said that crude exports will average 672,000 barrels a day in 1979 as compared to 365,000 barrels a day in 1978. He added that in December of this year the daily production will reach 1.8 million barrels, 300,000 barrels more than the present production of 1.5 million barrels.

He reaffirmed that in 1989, 2 years earlier than planned, daily production of oil will reach 2.25 million barrels. Some 7.4 million tons of petrochemical products will be produced in 1979, a quantity which will permit a considerable portion to be exported. He said in conclusion that the goal for 1979 is to use 97 percent of all natural gas extracted and to sell part of this abroad in liquid form.

GAS PIPELINE TO NORTHERN AREA INAUGURATED

PA182226 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2013 GMT 18 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Los Ramones, Mexico, 18 Mar (EFE)--Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo today inaugurated a 1,247-km-long gas pipeline which was constructed in 17 months. The pipeline reaches from here to the Cactus gas deposits in the Tabasco-Chiapas production area in southeastern Mexico. The pipeline was originally planned to run all the way to the U.S. border in order to carry 1 billion cubic feet of gas a day to that country, but the U.S. Government opposed a negotiated sales price of $2.60 per 1,000 cubic feet of gas.

The Mexican Government then announced that it would not sell gas to the United States and that the gas pipeline would not go to the U.S. border but would be used to take gas to Mexico's northern industrial areas. The pipeline cost 16 billion pesos (approximately $700 million) and can transport 800 million cubic feet of gas a day without compression stations. With compression stations planned for 18 points along the line, its capacity could be increased to 2.7 billion cubic feet per day.

Mexico is currently producing 2 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day, of which less than 200 million cubic feet is burned off, according to official figures. After talks between Lopez-Portillo and U.S. President Jimmy Carter last month, the two countries agreed to form a commission to examine the possibility of selling Mexican natural gas to the United States.

PLA WILL REGISTER, PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS

PA170223 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 16 Mar 79 PA

[Text] The Agrarian Labor Party (PLA) will register and participate in the elections, PLA Secretary General Azael Vargas has said to reporters of this station. Vargas explained that his center party condemns both left or right extremes. Asked about an alliance with the opposition, Vargas expressed surprise because, he said, so far neither the Panamenists nor the Liberals have contacted his party to discuss a so-called national front.

Vargas emphasized that his party believes in the democratic opening and in political campaigning. He added that the PLA supports the national government's initiative to allow the return of political parties. I have (?supported) President Royo's administrative initiatives, Vargas said, but the party is in the democratic opposition because we believe that the nation's basic transformations can be achieved through the force of the vote.

Asked about possible differences with PLA National Director Luis Barletta, Vargas said that the last party leadership meeting confirmed him as secretary general. He hopes that once the party is fully organized, it will proceed united toward a political victory. In 1968, Vargas recalled, the PLA obtained over 30,000 votes, behind the Panamenists, Liberals and Republicans.

BUSINESSMEN CONFIRM SUPPORT FOR PRD

PA162023 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Mar 79 PA

[Text] The high-ranking leadership of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD], led by Secretary General Nicolas Gonzalez Revilla, held its first meeting with the country's business sector yesterday at the Panama Hotel. The meeting was attended by businessmen who participated to confirm their adhesion to and support for the PRD.

Juan Jose Amado III, political coordinator for Herrera Province, inaugurated the event by welcoming the businessmen and expressing the PRD's gratitude for their having closed ranks around it, because the country needs the active participation of the large force represented by the business sector.

The meeting was attended by businessmen from Cocle, Herrera, Los Santos, Panama, Veraguas, Chiriqui and Colon. The PRD leadership included Adolfo Ahumada, government and justice minister; Dr Jorge Medrano, health minister and Cocle political coordinator; and Ascanio Villalaz, PRD under secretary general. Earlier, the businessmen had held regional meetings with the coordinators and with Finance and Treasury Minister Ernesto Perez Balladares.

ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL RULES ON FRAMPO REGISTRATION

PA180251 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 17 Mar 79 PP 1-A, 8-A PA

[Resolution No. 194 issued by electoral tribunal dated 16 March 1979]

[Excerpts] Resolution No 194(of 16 March 1979) by which the period for the registration of the party being formed under the name of the People's Broad Front [FRAMPO] is declared open. The electoral tribunal, using the legal and constitutional powers bestowed on it, resolves:

1. To authorize the founders of FRAMPO to proceed with the creation of the party in question.

2. To declare the registration period for the creation of FRAMPO open.

3. To tell the General Secretariat to deliver the books for the registration of party members to electoral officers throughout the country so that they will register the members of the party in question and give the necessary protection and facilities to the party in order to carry out its registration.

4. To recognize Renato Pereira as provisional FRAMPO representative and Juan Manuel Castulovich as representative in Pereira's absence, as established in a request submitted to the electoral tribunal.

Issued in Panama City on 16 March 1979.

To be published and implemented.

Luis Carlos Noriega, president
Celedonio Guardia O., vice president
Julio E. Harris M., magistrate
Everardo E. Tomlinson H., secretary general

COMMENTATOR SUGGESTS NATIONALIZATION OF REFINERY

PA162017 Panama City ABC Radio in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Mar 79 PA

[Commentary by Luis Castilla Bravo on the "Arriba Panama" program]

[Excerpts] The government has issued a very serious warning regarding the use of oil, and it seems that the community is paying no attention. They wait until the problems come and then start crying.

A way to conserve gasoline must be found, and it is also necessary to begin preparing oneself for possible increases in the price of that fuel, because this is a worldwide problem.

However, I do believe that the state can help to achieve a reduction in those costs, and there is no better way than to nationalize that enterprise; let us nationalize the Panama refinery. In all countries, in most countries, in view of the worldwide oil problem, the source which generates oil is in the hands of the state, and the refineries are in the hands of the state. I do not know why it is in private hands in Panama. It would seem to be a step in which private enterprise itself would support the national government because if the state were to assume control of the Panama refinery it would be possible to keep prices from rising as much, and the percentages [as heard] could allow the state to set lower prices, because the state would set prices with another mentality, not the speculative mentality or the mentality which seeks to make a profit by any means--the thinking which prevails at the company which controls the Panama refinery.

Therefore, we take the liberty of suggesting to the national government that it take the necessary steps to have that enterprise transferred to the hands of the state.

COSTA RICA

MINISTER CHARGES COMMUNIST INVOLVEMENT IN STRIKE

PA161625 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Labor and Social Security Minister Estela Quesada Hernandez said last night over a television network that the strike declared at the Tempisque sugarmill is a political movement. The minister said that the promotors of this movement are a group of communist agitators who are not seeking to improve the social and economic conditions of the workers but, rather, to establish a communist system in our country.

The labor minister said that the workers who are participating in the strike at the Tempisque sugarmill were forced to do so by their communist leaders, who disregared the workers' rights. The minister emphasized that there is no reason for the government and the company to accede to the conditions imposed by those agitators since the union that they represent has no legal standing because it is not registered with the Labor Ministry.

Minister Estela Quesada added during her statements last night over a television network that the values of the fatherland are being sullied by communist minorities. The minister said that this strike at the sugarmill is a repetition of what occurred some time ago in the banana areas, with agitators threatening workers and their families if they do not participate in the movement.

Communist Deputy's Reaction

PA161634 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Communist deputy Mario Devandas unexpectedly arrived at the Presidential Palace last night and announced to Minister of the Presidency Jose Rafael Cordero that the communists will confront the government. The deputy's words were in reaction to the statements made by Labor Minister Estela Quesada over a television network last night.

In addition to her customary lies, the labor minister dared to say that we communists rape the wives and daughters of workers to force them to remain on strike, communist deputy Mario Devandas said at the Presidential Palace in the presence of reporters. He added that he has two daughters and a home, that he is a political leader and a former labor leader and that under no circumstance will he accept a statement of this kind from Minister Estela Quesada.

I came to talk with the president, deputy Devandas Brenes said, because if Minister Quesada wants to see some bloodletting, she will. Unfortunately, she is not a man, so she cannot get the treatment that should be handed out to a person who makes statements of that kind, Devandas Brenes added angrily in the presence of newsmen who were covering the Cabinet meeting. The deputy added: I come to tell you, in the name of my party, the Costa Rican Socialist Party and the labor federation which I represent, that we will not participate in any national dialog. As a condition for such participation, Devandas said that the minister must retract her statements. He added that he was not asking that she retract all her anticommunist stupidities. He said that she must retract the statements in question and added: I hope, I am sure that United People's Movement will support the position.

Finally, I must tell you, Mr Minister, Devandas Brenes told Minister Cordero Croceri, that I have maintained a position of caution regarding the actions of the government and of understanding regarding the crisis which we are experiencing. However, he said emphatically, if the government wants dialog on the one hand, but sends us emissaires of this type on the other, and if the government wants a fight--in the Legislative Assembly, in the streets, in the labor unions or with the workers--we will adopt a corresponding attitude from this moment on.

Devandas said that he has maintained a position of impartiality but if the government wants a confrontation on the plane established by Minister Quesada, it will have one at that level.

We are very sorry, Mr Minister, Devandas Brenes said, that we should have made you the recipient of this protest, but I believe that because of the love that we all bear for this country, we must make an effort to keep political confrontation at the level of minimal [as heard] intelligence.

Government Reaction

PA161635 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1100 GMT 16 Mar 79 PA

[Text] The government openly and emphatically rejected the threats of the communists when Minister of the Presidency Jose Rafael Cordero Croceri said that he does not accept threats of any kind. As a deputy you deserve my respect, but I must emphatically tell you that we cannot accept your threat of bloodletting, the minister said.

I have traveled to China and Russia and I am proud that you can come to the Presidential Palace to make such statements, because those things could not be said by you or anyone else in any of the countries that you defend, the minister said.

Minister Cordero Croceri told Devandas Brenes that he was not familiar with the statements made by the labor minister but that he emphatically rejects the threats against the government. You have taken the liberty of coming here to express yourself, and I have attentively listened to you because you are a representative of the people, but I definitely reject your terms without being aware of or approving the statements made by the labor minister. I will inform the president of the republic of your protest but not of your threats, because they do not frighten us, Cordero Croceri said.

President's Reaction

PA161919 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1630 GMT 16 Mar 79 PA

[Text] The president of the republic was asked about the statements made by communist deputy Mario Devandas, who maintained--in reference to a speech made by the labor minister last night--that there could be some bloodletting.

The president said: Some people talk for the sake of talking. I do not believe that deputy Mario Devandas is speaking seriously. This was the laconic answer given by President Carazo to the threat made by communist deputy Devandas, who also said that if the government wanted war, it would have it.

SLIGHT QUAKE SHAKES COUNTRY; NO MAJOR DAMAGE REPORTED

PA180214 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Most of Costa Rica, with the exception of Guanacaste and Puntarenas, was shaken by a quake today that caused alarm among the people who felt it. Based on the large number of calls received at this station, the quake was of medium intensity and lasted between 7 and 9 seconds. There is no official report of the quake's intensity because the Seismology Department of the University of Costa Rica was closed today, Saturday. There have been no reports of any serious damage to houses or buildings.

NICARAGUA

'LARGEST EVER' SHIPMENT OF WEAPONS FROM COSTA RICA SEIZED

PA171925 Paris AFP in Spanish 1753 GMT 17 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 17 Mar (AFP)--The Nicaraguan Army announced the seizure of what it described as "the largest cache of contraband arms ever captured in its history," it was reported here today. According to an official report, a cargo truck with a hidden compartment that had departed from Costa Rica was seized along with its cargo of war materiel. In its false compartment the vehicle carried Soviet-made type [word indistinct] rockets, German machineguns, 115 rifles, some 50 kg of high-powered explosives and Brazilian-made electric detonators. According to the official report, the armaments were to have been delivered to Sandinists in Managua.

The daily NOVEDADES, a government spokesman, reported that the Soviet rockets had been shipped from Cuba to Nicaragua via Panama. The daily added that the cargo included enough TNT to blow up a large part of Managua.

The driver of the vehicle was identified as Placido Calixto Baca, a Nicaraguan citizen. When customs officials discovered the arms cache, Calixto fled toward Costa Rica, it was unofficially reported. According to reports, this has been the second clandestine shipment captured on the southern border this week.

Meanwhile, several skirmishes between Sandinists and military patrols were waged last night in all sectors of Managua, paralyzing the movement of vehicles and people. The Sandinists attacked several police stations and destroyed several telephone networks [redes] with bombs. One person was reportedly killed. Civilian groups engaged in combat with military patrols in the sectors of San Judas, Las Palmas, Lindavista, Altagracia and other southeastern sectors of the capital. One civilian, who was considered an army informer, was killed by Sandinists in San Judas.

In Limay, 180 km northeast of Managua, a military patrol killed two civilians alleged to be Sandinists. A clash between military patrols and civilians was also reported in Murra, 300 km north of Managua. No casualties were reported.

A troop carrier [tanqueta] opened .50-caliber machinegun fire on rebel groups in Chinandega, 130 km west of Managua. There were no apparent casualties. Civilian groups also clashed with military patrols in Masaya, 30 km west of Managua, where at least one soldier was wounded.

Further Details

PA171945 Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Another cache of arms has been discovered by Nicaraguan customs authorities on the southern border. A large shipment of very new weapons was discovered in a truck with a Managua license plate that was attempting to enter the country through the Penas Blancas border post.

Unofficial, but completely reliable reports indicate that the driver of the truck, upon seeing that Nicaraguan authorities were inspecting the vehicle very thoroughly, tried to flee into Costa Rica. Another shipment of arms was recently discovered in a Costa Rican trailer on its way to Honduras.

In this truck, the license number of which was not received, Nicaraguan authorities found 34 FAL rifles, 20 scanner radios, a radio broadcasting control [as heard], and 7 boxes of [word indistinct]. The cache also includes a Bengal flare, a German-made MG-42 machinegun, 72 M-1 carbines, 2 Japanese-made grenade launchers, 2,000 TNT blasting caps, 579 sticks of dynamite, 145 ammunition clips with 7.72 rounds for FAL rifles and 74 slings [portacamaras] for FAL rifles. The confiscated weapons were left at the Sapoa command.

WIDESPREAD SANDINIST ACTIVITY REPORTED IN MANAGUA

PA172148 Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Mar 79 PA

[Text] One person was killed and several were injured last night, all in the downtown area [zona de abajo], which was closed off because of the shooting. An unidentified man approximately 45 years of age was the first victim of the events that occurred yesterday afternoon in the capital.

According to the local Red Cross post, the dead man was shot in the left armpit near Panorama on the highway near Asososca. The injured, who the Red Cross has reported transferring to aid centers, are the following: Rafael Lopez Moreno, 21, shot in the mouth at kilometer 3 of the new highway to Leon; Raul Sandoval, 32, reportedly a member of the fire corps, whose left knee was destroyed by a bullet as he was parking his automobile in the Altagracia District; National Guardsman Nicolas (Rabos) Telles, who was on guard at the (Capsa) branch in Las Palmas. The guardsman was shot in the hand. His attackers fled.

The Managua Fire Corps reports two sorties. At 1755 firemen of the Centro America District were called to fight a fire at (?Peikard) in that district. The building was partially burned. Reportedly, two contact bombs had exploded before the fire broke out.

The firemen had no report regarding the fire at the Lindavista movie theater, since they were unable to reach the site because of heavy shooting. The theater was reportedly partially destroyed.

Sandinist actions also occurred in the Centro America District. According to reports, the district seemed almost like a cemetery last night. The incidents began at 1800 when unidentified elements distributed leaflets of the United People's Movement and instructed residents to turn out their lights. Shortly afterward, persons who were in the offices of (Peikard) in Centro America District were removed from the building. Afterward, there was a loud explosion which blew off the roof of the offices. Thoese responsible for the action took the money that had been in the payphones. Later, another bomb destroyed a payphone [caja registradora telefonica] in the Centro America District. Last night masked elements roamed through the area shouting guerrilla slogans. No casualties were reported in the Centro America District.

It has also been reported that the Sandinist operations last night included an assault at the Las Brisas gas station, in the district of the same name, at the Lindavista intersection. The assailants, reportedly a group of 15 men and 1 woman, arrived at the station carrying weapons--machineguns and revolvers--and held the employees at gunpoint. They reportedly stole 2,500 cordobas and hurled Molotov cocktails at the gas pumps and the building. The owner of the Las Brisas Shell station is Mr Samuel Santos.

Residents have reported that in the San Judas area of (El Cumen) the situation was critical. At about 2000 the National Guard stopped vehicles from driving through the area. Many persons who wanted to enter the area decided to turn back. The sound of gunfire alternated with the explosion of powerful contact bombs. Despite the heavy shooting near (El Cumen), there was military mobilization in the area. No reports concerning that activity had been received as of this morning.

Early yesterday, unidentified persons presumed to be members of Sandinist squads attempted to take over Radionoticias. They were unable to do so because the building where the radio station is located was closed. They wished to broadcast a revolutionary slogan.

Another sector in the capital which suffered harassment was Altagracia, where armed elements attacked the Fifth Police Precinct. The garrison stationed at that military station resisted the attack, and there was an exchange of fire which lasted approximately half an hour.

GUERRILLAS BURN GOVERNMENT INSTALLATIONS IN SAN ROMAN

PA170407 Paris AFP in Spanish 1958 GMT 16 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 16 Mar (AFP)--It was learned here today that a group of 50 guerrillas dressed in fatigues attacked the town of San Ramon, 140 km north of Managua, last night and destroyed several government installations. Upon retreating, the guerrillas left the army post, the communications offices, the courts, the rural service offices and several homes owned by government supporters in flames. They also burned 10 state-owned vehicles. According to unofficial reports, the town's army unit retreated without fighting.

According to the press, San Ramon was the scene of the second important Sandinist attack carried out over the past 48 hours. In Granada, 50 km east of Managua, a Sandinist force of approximately 40 men dressed in fatigues met the army in a violent confrontation.

Military reports indicated that the guerrilla attack was aimed at Granada's main army headquarters, but it was repelled. Three soldiers were wounded in the attack, but the number of guerrilla casualties was not given. Eight civilians were wounded when the bus in which they were riding was caught in the crossfire.

Meanwhile, government and opposition political forces minimized the importance of statements made by Sandinist groups abroad announcing that a coup d'etat is underway implying that the regime of Gen Anastasio Somoza has been overthrown.

According to Sandinist reports disseminated outside and inside the country, an attempt is being made to stage a mock military coup in order to allow Somoza to remain as the "power behind the throne" of a puppet administration.

NEW FSLN ATTACKS REPORTED IN LEON, MASAYA

PA170234 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Mar 79 PA

[Text] Managua--New clashes between rebels and National Guardsmen have occurred in at least three cities. Only two civilians were reported killed in these actions.

The authorities reported that a National Guard patrol was attacked last night in Leon, 90 km west of Managua. The rebels were identified as FSLN guerrillas, but no casualties were reported. Leon residents said shooting and bomb blasts could be heard throughout the night. The activities are apparently linked to the commemoration of last month's death of five youths killed by the National Guard as they barricaded themselves inside a local church. A march to the Leon cemetery, organized to pay tribute to the slain youths, was banned by the authorities. However, a mass offered at El Calvario Church was attended by thousands of residents.

In Masaya, 27 km west of Managua, another FSLN commando group forced attendants at a gasoline station to throw water and sand into the station tanks to ruin the fuel.

FSLN OFFERS ASSURANCES TO NATIONAL GUARD DESERTERS

PA190412 Panama City PRESENCIA SANDINISTA in Spanish 2 Feb 79 p 19 PA [tentative]

[Article: "Instructions to Officers"]

[Text] Our organization, the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], has been informed that certain guard officers have voiced concern because they have not received assurances from our members if they cross over to our ranks.

We know of two colonels, one major, three captains and four first lieutenants, in addition to enlisted men, who have still not joined our ranks.

We tell these officers specifically:

Those in charge of the various squads and combat units have instructions that when officers want to join our ranks during the upcoming insurrectionist movement, they must be met privately, questioned to discover their motives and then incorporated--if it is proved that they have good intentions, as in the case of the aforementioned officers--into the combat units. Their rank will be respected.

Of course, they must submit to the organization's combat discipline, follow the orders of those in charge and go to the combat sites where they are assigned. They must be willing to fight alongside Sandinist forces, whether with their own men or with Sandinist comrades.

They will be treated exactly the same as all our fighting brothers and will be assured of a place in the new army. They are the honest officers who will have to play a decisive role in the army of the new Nicaragua.

Of course, it is possible that in the beginning there will be some misgivings about them but, once their willingness to fight is proved in practice, their incorporation will actually be a guarantee of good will.

We do not dismiss the possibility that some may want to infiltrate us, but we will take care of that. Immediate execution will be their punishment.

RADIO SANDINO TO INCREASE TRANSMISSION TIME, POWER

PA171433 (Clandestine) Radio Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua 2330 GMT 16 Mar 79 PA

[From "Sandinist Dialog" feature]

[Excerpt] [Unidentified announcer] It is our objective to have a [word indistinct] radio station, a station that meets all the requirements of any station, and in this sense we have some news to report to you, Nicaraguan brothers. In view of the importance that the station has gained and the need to increase communications with you so that we, the vanguard of the people, can be better heard, our National Directorate has decided to increase the power of our station presently.

Right now we reach most homes in Nicaragua, all homes in our country. Shortly, perhaps in a month, we will have 12 times the power that we have now. Listen well, 12 times the power that we have right now. We will broadcast many hours every day, and Radio Sandino's transmissions will be more professional. Comrade, what do you think of the impact we are going to have with a station that is 12 times more powerful?

[Second unidentified announcer] As you indicated, we currently have great impact. Our people listen to us, but when we increase our transmissions things will be much better and, when we have 12 times the power we have now, the clarity of our transmissions will be enhanced. This will induce us to try to improve the organizational guidelines and political education aired on Radio Sandino. The need to educate our people organizationally and politically has prompted our organization to extend its transmission time. Radio Sandino will be presented for a longer period of time in Nicaraguan homes. The blow to the Somoza dictatorship will be much harder. The blow will be harder to the unconditional supporters who work in the Somoza stations which the people already know and we do not want to mention. However, Radio Sandino will fill a gap for the Nicaraguan people. In about a month, Radio Sandino will be present in Nicaraguan homes for a longer period of time for the benefit of the people.

[First unidentified announcer] Yes, now that we are going to have a station that is 12 times more powerful, Radio Sandino's message will be heard more clearly and we will be able to spend more time with you, Nicaraguan brothers. This need, this enhancement of Radio Sandino's power, comes with a broader structure, on the basis of which we will air transmissions. It also responds to the need to make a more stable, longer transmission on a regular basis. We will broadcast as any other Nicaraguan station does. Perhaps our transmissions will go from 1600 [2200 GMT] until midnight or 0100 [0700 GMT]. We will be heard all over Nicaragua on shortwave and, due to the power, it is possible that we will also be heard on mediumwave as other stations can be. Therefore, Nicaraguan brothers, we will soon be with you at 12 times the power that we now have. Thus, our message will reach a larger audience with better structure.

As the time approaches to go on the air with the (?greater) power that we have mentioned, we inform you that on Sunday, 18 March, we will make a special transmission. This transmission is intended to be heard by all Nicaraguans. In other words, we ask whoever listens to us to tell his neighbors, friends, and acquaintances that Radio Sandino is on the air. On Sunday, we will broadcast from 1730 [2330 GMT] until late in the evening. Perhaps we will link the 1730 [2330 GMT] transmission with the 2300 [0500 GMT] transmission and make a single transmission. This effort, Nicaraguan brothers, means that all brothers who still have not tuned in will be able to do so during those 7 hours of transmission. During those approximately 6 and 1/2 hours of transmission time that we plan to be on the air we ask you listeners to tell the Nicaraguan brothers who still do not know of our revolutionary message so that they can tune us in on Sunday at any time after 1730. We will be on the air from 1730 to 2300 [2330 GMT to 0600 GMT] on a continuous basis so that the Nicaraguan people can find our frequency.

UN ENVOY DENOUNCES PRC AT SECURITY COUNCIL

FL171459 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Mar 79 FL

[Text] By using the right to reply, Cuba has accused China at the [UN] Security Council of betraying the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, colluding with imperialism and massacring the Vietnamese people. Ambassador Raul Roa Kouri, Cuba's permanent representative at the United Nations, has said for the second time at the council session that it is an old form of sophistry used by those who practice duplicity, hypocrisy, cynicism and banditry in international relations to attribute their own miserable moral qualities to others.

Roa Kouri stated that the aggressor's spokesman, Deng Xiaoping, calls Cuba the tiger's jackal for its decided and firm position in defense of proletarian internationalism, socialism and communism, which have been vilely betrayed by the new gang in Beijing; and he [Roa Kouri] added that the deceased great helmsman reserved the term tiger for North American imperialism, which at the time he considered to be mankind's worst enemy, most likely because the so-called ping-pong policy and the trips by top U.S. officials had not begun, nor was there a possibility of receiving credits, technology and diplomatic recognition in the near future. When these became viable they rolled up the paper tiger in a ball, tied it with Beijing duck-gut and joyfully played as playful cats with a ball of yarn. This shows the firmness of the principles held by the new mandarins and their deceased great soothsayer, the master of the great leap into the past and vociferous announcer of thermonuclear holocaust.

Further on in his energetic reply, the Cuban ambassador told the members of the council and the other ambassadors that whoever is capable of imposing the savage Pol Pot and company tyranny on another people is capable of committing any type of infamy; and whoever is capable of attacking a neighboring country which is independent and sovereign, such as Vietnam, destroying the lives of children, women and old people indiscriminately, bombing plants, mines, hospitals, schools and houses for the piratical objective of taking possession of part of Vietnam's territory, as they did in India in 1962, does not deserve to occupy a position on the Security Council, and much less as a permanent member.

In concluding his remarks, Roa Kouri stated that Deng Xiaoping's hordes invaded Vietnam announcing that they would be withdrawing right away because they did not desire a single inch of Vietnamese territory. The truth is contrary to this. In the face of the terrible beating given them by the Vietnamese people, they have had to withdraw from the most advanced positions in the interior of that country's territory; but they have entrenched themselves in areas near the border, on the Vietnamese side of course, to carry out their objective of conquest and rapine.

And lastly he said that the Vietnamese people, with the support of all progressive humanity and the socialist camp, has taught the neo-fascist adventurers of Beijing a harsh lesson; and without a doubt they will repell them from all the corners of their homeland which today are occupied.

SHIPPING AGREEMENT CONCLUDED WITH SPAIN

FL172011 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1911 GMT 17 Mar 79 FL

[Text] The Spanish Council of Ministers has authorized the signing of an agreement on maritime transportation between Spain and Cuba in accordance with a protocol discussed and endorsed by the transportation ministries of the two countries. The document sets up the distribution of the two countries' cargo that is included in their trade exchange, which it is believed will approach a total value of about $200 million this year.

VILLA CLARA UNIVERSITY SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH GDR SCHOOL

Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 17 Mar 79 FL

[Text] The first cooperation agreement between the Central University of Villa Clara and the Karl Marx University of Leipzig, GDR, was signed by Dr Juan Manuel Diego Cobelo, rector of the Cuban institution, and (Adelor Berger), vice rector of the German institution. The document calls for the mutual exchange of experiences and cooperation in the areas of agricultural activities, social sciences and economics. With the signing of this agreement between the Central University of Villa Clara and the Karl Marx University of Leipzig, the old relations between the two higher education institutions were formalized. Lastly, the two sides expressed their satisfaction with the prospects for new work and saluted the teachers and students of the two educational institutions.

TODOR ZHIVKOV RECEIVES RAUL CASTRO IN BULGARIA

FL162334 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2302 GMT 16 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Todor Zhivkov, first secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] and chairman of the State Council, today received army Gen Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Cuban Communist Party. Matters concerned with the intensification and expansion of the fraternal Bulgarian-Cuban friendship and bilateral cooperation were discussed at the meeting, which was held at the Boyana state residence. According to the official announcement released in Sofia, the maximum Bulgarian leader and the first vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers also examined current international problems. Army Gen Dobri Dzhurov attended the meeting between Zhivkov and Raul Castro, which was conducted in a fraternal atmosphere.

RESERVE MILITARY IDENTIFICATION CARDS ISSUED IN CAMAGUEY

FL161559 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1511 GMT 16 Mar 79 FL

[Text] The process of handing out documents to all reservists in Camaguey Province officially began when Lazaro Vazquez Garcia, second secretary of the party in Camaguey Province, was given his identification card. Col Roberto Viera Estrada, member of the PCC Central Committee and chief of the army corps in Camaguey [Province], presided over the ceremony. In his remarks, he briefly recounted the work done by the military committees since their creation in 1973.

For his part, Lazaro Vazquez Garcia pointed out that it is a great encouragement to receive the identification card accrediting one as a reservist in the Revolutionary Armed Forces--FAR. Then Vazquez Garcia congratulated the military committees and the Camaguey army corps for completing their tasks.

CASAS REGUEIRO CHAIRS PARTY MEETING AT FAR DIRECTORATE

FL161918 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Mar 79 FL

[Text] The party committee at the Central Political Directorate of the Revolutionary Armed Forces--FAR--yesterday held its ninth meeting to evaluate, renew and/or ratify mandates. The meeting was held at the FAR main club, and Div Gen Senen Casas Regueiro, member of the PCC Central Committee and Council of State and first vice minister-chief of the FAR General Staff, made the closing remarks.

The Communists evaluated the work done in the year since their last meeting.

Such work included internal party activities and the principal tasks undertaken at the directorate.

Brig Gen Sixto Batista Santana, member of the PCC Central Committee and vice minister-chief of the Central Political Directorate, was a special speaker at the meeting. He emphasized the importance of the work of party members being aimed with increasing forcefulness at the activities that are conducted with FAR units.

In his closing remarks, Div Gen Senen Casas Regueiro called for continued intensification of party work in keeping with the development of FAR work and the latter's demands.

FIDEL CASTRO MEETS WITH POLISARIO FRONT LEADERS

FL171555 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 17 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee, yesterday afternoon had a fraternal meeting with Bashir Moustafa as-Sayyid, deputy secretary general of the POLISARIO Front, who is in Cuba at the head of a delegation. Also attending the meeting were Pedro Miret, member of the Politburo; Antonio Perez Herrero and Raul Valdes Vivo, members of the Secretariat; Lionel Soto, member of the PCC Central Committee; and (Bulam Mohamed) and (Ahmed Buhari), members of the POLISARIO Front Politburo.

RODRIGUEZ PAZ APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO CYPRUS

FL161627 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 Mar 79 FL

[Text] The Council of State has designated Comrade Fermin Rodriguez Paz as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Cuba to the Government of the Republic of Cyprus. Comrade Rodriguez Paz presently holds the position of minister counselor of the Cuban Embassy in France.

U.S. INTELLIGENCE GATHERING BILL NOTED

FL151641 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1624 GMT 15 Mar 79 FL

[Text] A proposal making it possible for U.S. intelligence gathering services to snoop into the lives of North Americans residing abroad has been denounced by the American Civil Liberties Union. The bill, which was prepared by the Justice Department, is an attempt by the North American government and Congress to empower Yankee agents working abroad to broaden the scope of their activities by legalizing actions which are unlawful.

GRENADA

REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT ISSUES SITUATION REPORT

PA180338 Paris AFP in Spanish 0257 GMT 18 Mar 79 PA

[Excerpts] St Georges, 17 Mar (AFP)--According to official information made public here today, 3 persons were killed and 11 wounded during the coup d'etat last Tuesday on this small Caribbean island. There was complete calm today among the 102,000 inhabitants of Grenada after the overthrow of Prime Minister Eric Gairy, who was replaced by Maurice Bishop, leader of the New Jewel Movement.

The new authorities announced that general elections would be held within 4 months. According to the new prime minister, only these elections "will convince all the interested foreign governments that the people of this country were fed up with Eric Gairy and his long list of improper actions."

Responsible sources said that more than 200 persons have been arrested in the last few days, including former members of the previous Cabinet and police officials. There was no report of any action taken against army officers.

According to the authorities, the incidents left only 3 dead and 11 wounded. None of the wounded was seriously hurt. They added that unless the new administration is recognized within the next 10 days, the revolutionary government will send delegations to Great Britain, the United States and Canada to meet with the principal authorities of those three countries.

A spokesman for Bishop said in a firm tone of voice today: "At this moment the world must face a single reality: Eric Gairy's criminal dictatorship has ended forever. Gairy will never again be prime minister here."

CABINET ANNOUNCED; CURRENCY, PRICE MEASURES ESTABLISHED

FL162046 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2030 GMT 16 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Grenada's new leaders today announced the Cabinet headed by Mr Maurice Bishop. A statement from St George's described it as a provisional government and said its first task would be to prepare for new elections. The 14-member Cabinet includes Mr Morris Bain, a member of Parliament in the former government. It is expected that other persons will be added soon. It was also announced that the revolutionary ministers have stepped up measures to block the illegal export of currency from Grenada. Banks, immigration and other authorities have been asked to insure that people do not travel out with more than the 3,000 Eastern Caribbean dollars stipulated by law for holiday travel.

And in its first national directive, Grenada's new revolutionary government today ordered that all retail prices be frozen at current levels. A government spokesman, Bernard Coard, explained that the action had to be taken in the face of the indiscriminate price increases imposed by some merchants since the overthrow of former Prime Minister Eric Gairy on Tuesday. Mr Coard added that anyone found acting in contravention of the price order would be dealt with severely. In addition, he said, a vigilance system has been set up in the Grenada treasury, and checks will only be issued after careful verification to determine the legitimacy of the transaction.

The new Bishop administration also ordered an examination of the country's records to determine the state of the economy and to facilitate planning for economic reconstruction.

Mr Coard also told of talks now being held with the police force to ascertain what sort of force the country should have and how it's going to set about to serving the true interests of the people.

MAURICE BISHOP OUTLINES POLICIES AT NEWS CONFERENCE

FL162301 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2230 GMT 16 Mar 79 FL

[Text] A provisional government headed by revolutionary leader Maurice Bishop has been appointed in Grenada. A statement from the country's capital of St George's named a 14-member Cabinet, including Morris Bain, a member of Parliament in the former administration. The statement added that other people would be included shortly. And it said the government's first (?task) would be to prepare for new elections as soon as possible. It was also announced that the revolutionary leadership has stepped up measures to block the illegal export of currency from Grenada. The new government also outlined other aspects of the proposed economic policy today. For the details we join JBC's [Jamaica Broadcasting Corporation] (Errol Lee) in St George's, Grenada.

[Begin (Lee) recording] At a news conference which ended a short while ago, Prime Minister Maurice Bishop of Grenada spoke on his proposed economic policies. Mr Bishop said that priorities would be placed on the stimulation of agricultural production through food farms and on the development of agro-industries. He spoke of developing what he called new tourism for Grenada and on placing more emphasis on citrus.

On his government's ideological position, Mr Bishop said he was not overly concerned over labels, but the policies of the New Jewel Movement since its inception 6 years ago could be described as socialist. The new prime minister said that the first priority was to insure that nothing threatens the revolution. He said there was no possibility of opposition from within Grenada, as his government was firmly in control. Mr Bishop said any possible threats from outside would be resisted by his forces to the last man. Mr Bishop said he had received assurances from all the governments in the region that they would be a party to no form of intervention and that some governments, both within the Caribbean and outside, had indicated their intention to recognize his government, and this was now just a matter of time.

Mr Bishop came to the news conference directly from talks with diplomatic representatives of Britain, Canada and the United States. He said both Britain and Canada had made it clear that they had no intention of intervening in Grenada, and the representative from the United States gave the assurance that the U.S. Government didn't intend to give any assistance to Eric Gairy.

As the sun sets on the isle of spice, the people of Grenada are making their way home after a day of work. In a few hours time, the nightly curfew will go into place, and the revolutionary army will maintain vigil protecting the revolution nearly 4 days old. [end recording]

RADIX PROPOSES EXCHANGE OF CRIMINALS FOR GAIRY

FL162345 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2230 GMT 16 Mar 79 FL

[Text] A member of the newly-named Grenadian Cabinet, Mr Kendrick Radix, told reporters in New York today that his country would be willing to extradite several American criminals in Grenada in exchange for ousted Grenadian Prime Minister Eric Gairy.

Mr Radix explained that the criminals were allowed to stay in Grenada by the former administration, and the new leaders wanted to extradite Gairy for trial on charges of murder and corruption. However, Mr Radix pointed out that such measures weren't yet possible, as no government has yet granted recognition to the Bishop regime.

The charges against Gairy go back to 1973 and are in connection with the death of several of his opponents and the reports that he illegally obtained millions of dollars while in office.

Mr Radix further explained that the increasingly dictatorial rule by Gairy had caused the New Jewel Movement to stage the coup. In addition, he said, Gairy had left orders that members of the NJM be killed. Mr Radix, however, refused to discuss where the NJM obtained the arms used in the coup.

JAMAICA

PRIME MINISTER MANLEY COMMENTS ON GRENADA COUP

FL162324 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2230 GMT 16 Mar 79 FL

[Text] Jamaica's position on the Grenadian revolution will be announced after Minister [name indistinct] reports to Cabinet on the 2-day CARICOM foreign ministers meeting in Barbados.

In a prepared text today, Prime Minister Manley said he couldn't make a definitive statement on Jamaica's position [words indistinct]. However, he said that the government has been satisfied from the outset that the events in Grenada were internal, involving only the people of the country. As a result, he said, the government has made it clear through the appropriate diplomatic channels that it would be strongly opposed to any outside interference. And he noted his satisfaction that this has been the unanimous [words indistinct] in the independent states of CARICOM.

Mr Manley said that the government has taken note of the fact of the total absence of violence of any kind during the [words indistinct] new Grenadian Government. In addition, the governor general has been [words indistinct] in his tenure of constitutional office. The prime minister pointed to the declaration by the new Grenadian leaders that they intended to hold new and fair elections soon and he said that their assurance that Grenada will remain in CARICOM and continue to [words indistinct] legal institutions were of profound significance.